

Existing Conditions

Terminology

- ***Existing Conditions*** Phrase commonly used to denote the current environmental conditions within geographic areas considered in an EIS or EIR
- ***Affected Environment*** NEPA term for *Existing Conditions*
- ***Environmental Setting*** CEQA term for *Existing Conditions*
- ***Baseline*** Any scenario that is used as a basis of comparison in an EIS or EIR.
Affected Environment and *Environmental Setting* are “baselines” for comparing impacts of alternatives

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What does it mean?

***Existing Conditions = Affected Environment
= Environmental Setting***

- **A succinct description of the environmental conditions that will be or could be affected by the alternatives considered in an EIS or EIR. Descriptions are to be no longer than necessary to describe the effects of the alternatives.**

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How is it used?

- Discussion of existing conditions is required in NEPA and CEQA documents under *Affected Environment and Environmental Setting*
- Describes the current environmental conditions that could be altered in some way by the alternatives considered. Includes historical account of how conditions came about
- Provides a *Baseline* for the analysis and comparison of the alternatives